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Introduction

The processes observed in the modern world are characterized by various kinds of changes, often of a rapid and concurrently multidirectional (turbulent) character, which results in a considerable increase in the level of uncertainty in all the areas of socio-economic life. It applies to the fact that spatial development is characterized by constantly rising complexity, which is a result of an increase in the social and economic life openness degree with deepening specialization, widening multisubjectivity as well as differentiation in functional-spatial arrangements. Socio-economic life openness leads to an increase in population mobility, goods transfer and an accelerating dynamics of information civilization, which results in new standards of behaviors challenging current value systems. Increasing scientific and professional specialization develops society's creative abilities, enabling a utilization of more advanced technology. Specialization directly affects improved quality and competitiveness, forcing far-reaching reforms in the spheres of education, production organization and public services. Since not all spatial units adapt to these dynamic changes in a similar manner, this causes an escalation of disproportions in their development level. This differentiation is deepened as a result of a polarization phenomenon caused by various degrees of space elements susceptibility to an absorption of modern achievements of human activity. In consequence, the phenomenon of differentiation in the level of socio--economic development is observed in the modern space. Concurrent empowerment of the society of particular spatial elements (regions, subregions, local units) causes that they are more interested in development processes creation.

In this issue of the "Regional Journal" a collection of interesting scientific articles can be found devoted to current issues and problems of local and regional development, cities and regions, spatial development in contemporary realities, regional policy, public administration as well as creativity and innovation.

Wishing you a pleasant reading, we hope that the findings presented in this publication will be an inspiration to our readers for further discussion and research devoted to regional development.

Stanisław Korenik, Piotr Hajduga